

Pacific Lutheran University
School of Arts and Communication / Department of Music present

JUNIOR RECITAL

Arthur Keast, *baritone*

Jeff Andersen, *piano*

Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 5pm
Jennie Lee Hansen Recital Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Program

Presti omai.....George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Ombra mai fu

Finchè lo strale

Aus den östlichen Rosen.....Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Dein Angesicht

Widmung

Overlooking the river.....Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

Amabel

It was a lover and his lass

Program Notes

George-Frideric Handel wrote more than forty operas during his lifetime including *Giulio Cesare* which was first performed in 1724 at the King’s Theatre in London. It was a smashing success and Handel revived the production three times. *Presti omai* depicts the triumphant protagonist stepping on the shores of the Nile after defeating his enemy Pompeo. The piece opens with Cesare singing straight quarter notes which asserts his dominance and authority. Handel uses the aggressive runs to establish Cesare’s intimidation of the feeble Egyptians. *Ombra mai fu* is one of Handel’s most well-known compositions from his opera seria *Serse* of 1738. The simplicity of the music displays genuine love from man to nature. *Finchè lo strale* comes from the opera *Floridante* of 1721 and is similar to *Presti omai*, as Handel uses straight quarter notes and aggressive runs to portray the ruthlessness of the King of Persia.

Robert Schumann is recognized for his flowing art songs and wrote over 300 Lieder including two song cycles. In *Aus den östlichen Rosen* Schumann portrays the rose as a symbol of love through his beautifully patterned and decorative accompaniment. In contrast, *Dein Angesicht* visualizes Heinrich Heine’s poem of how death takes away the light from the sweet and beautiful. Schumann demonstrates this realization of death through the ritardando at the end of the first section as the lips that are full of life are now pale and dead. *Widmung* is a full-fledged tribute of love from Schumann to his wife and prodigious pianist Clara. Schumann wrote the song as a wedding present wrapped in the heat of love and passion. At the end of the piece, Schumann quotes Franz Schubert’s *Ave Maria* as a commentary of a person’s total devotion to their lover, comparing her to the Virgin Mary.

Gerald Finzi’s song cycles are works of art that take us on a journey of memories and emotions. Finzi uses the words of Shakespeare and Thomas Hardy to paint melodies that can range from bright and cheery to exploring the melancholic past. *Before and After Summer* is a song cycle that recalls what is left behind. In *Overlooking the River*, Finzi uses text painting to display the beauty of nature in a blissful light through a soothing accompaniment. The flowing legato in the piano displays the transcendent beauty of the flowing river. *Amabel* ponders a former love and how people change over time. Finzi delivers frustration and regret in the form of accented off beats near the end of the piece before coming to a final resolution by bringing back the nostalgic tune introduced at the beginning. *It was a lover and his lass* accentuates Shakespeare’s energetic text of peasants in the countryside during springtime with a driving rhythmic pattern in the accompaniment, representing the youthful love of life.

This recital is presented by Mr. Keast in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. Mr. Keast is a student of Barry Johnson.



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